



Office of U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt

Washington's 5th District

223 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2002

Contact: April Gentry

(202) 225-2006

Spokane Readiness Training Center to receive \$8.8 million for Phase I, Nethercutt says

WASHINGTON – The Spokane Readiness Training Center is one step closer to becoming a reality, U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt (R-Wash.) said today.

Phase I of the center is slated to receive \$8.8 million as part of the Fiscal Year 2003 Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4546) recently passed by the House of Representatives.

“This facility has been a top priority in my requests for local defense funding, so I’m pleased to see this project is on its way to becoming a reality now,” Nethercutt said.

“The mission of the Readiness Training Center is crucial to ensuring the security and protection of those of us who call Washington state home. Since Sept. 11, we all recognize the need for a centralized training center which will link federal, state and local resources in the preparation, training and execution of federal and local emergency response missions.”

The facility will serve as the community-based training center to meet the combined needs of the Washington Army National Guard, and the Spokane area fire and police departments. The center includes administrative and training space, distance learning classrooms and a small arms range.

The project has been in the works since 2000, when the Washington National Guard identified three priority sites for the centers to support state-wide requirements: Bremerton, Yakima and Spokane. Unfortunately, the president’s budget only included funding for two centers, excluding Spokane. The authorizing committees in the House and Senate followed the president’s lead. This year’s request was bolstered by the Armed Services Committee’s spending \$1 billion over the president’s request for military construction, and the availability of \$5.2 million in state matching funds.

--MORE--

Readiness Training Center to receive \$8.8 million for Phase I, Nethercutt says

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“This move is really a good one for both the airport and the Guard,” Nethercutt said. “The Guard has outgrown its space at the airport, and the airport can attract new businesses in the space vacated by the guard. This project can bring great benefits to our region: security and economic growth.”

The Army National Guard no longer has sufficient space for its size and mission, and is under pressure by the Spokane Airport to relocate, consistent with Federal Aviation Administration regulations on non-aviation occupants. The Spokane Regional Chambers of Commerce have indicated an interest in attracting aviation-related companies to the site.

###